Export of herbs

†641. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to increase the export of herbs from India to the world market by encouraging their production in the country;

(b) if so, the share of India in the world market of herbs;

(c) whether his Ministry has formulated any action plan to increase the production capacity of herbs in various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) It is a fact that India's share in the global exports of herbal medicines is low as till now the production of herbal medicine has been in unorganized sector with traditional methods.

Following steps have been taken to increase production of herbal medicines:

(i) Mandatory testing of metals in all purely herbal ASU medicines for exports w.e.f. 01.01.2006 onwards.

(ii) Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened by upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories and accreditation of private drug testing laboratories.

(iii) State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to ensure full compliance by all ASU drug manufacturers of the provision of Rule 161(1) and (2) relating to displaying on the label of the container or in a leaflet to be inserted in the package of an ASU drugs, the true list of all the ingredients used in the manufacture of the preparation together with the quantify of each of the ingredients incorporated therein. The relaxation in labeling provision have been made for the export of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines.

(iv) A research project has been sanctioned to various laboratories to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely use Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies. Good manufacturing practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country.

(v) Government of India has initiated awareness programmes for educating the industry through its Export Promotion Council, Pharmexcil. Besides, Government i introduced Testing facilities for ASU drugs in the country have been strengthened b, upgradation of State Drug Testing Laboratories.

Revival of sick Industrial enterprises

642. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of sick industrial enterprises when the present Governmen

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.